

## **2021 Junior Baseball League Game Rule Modifications**

Website: <http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/ParksRecreationandProperties/DivisionofRecreation/SeasonalActivities>

Home team is listed second on the season schedule. Home team Bench is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side.

RAINOUT HOTLINE: (216) 664-6002 (Call after 4 p.m. on Weekdays and after 8 a.m. on weekends)

1. **Grace time for games:** Grace time for teams arriving late will be determined by the league administrator based on transportation and scheduling issues. Please contact the league admin at 216-200-9839 if your team is not going to be on time for a reason beyond your control.
2. **Time Limit:** No new inning may start after 2 hours of (7) innings. **Umpires – Please inform the field supervisor and both team managers of the actual starting time of the game.**
3. **Run Spread:** (10) runs after 5 innings. Losing team must bat equal number of times.
4. **Mercy Rule:** (15) runs after 3 innings. Losing team must bat equal number of times.
5. **Slaughter Rule:** No team may score more than (5) runs in an inning. If (5) runs are scored before 3 outs-the inning is over. NO—any additional runs that score on the last play do not count.
6. **The Starting Lineup:**  
*Continuous order* The coach has the option of going with a continuous batting order. If a player gets ejected in this situation – it is an out when that player comes up to bat.  
*10 in the Line-up* The coach may go with a (10) player batting order with (1) Extra Player (EP). If the team does not have any additional players and a player gets ejected in this situation – It is an out when that player comes up to bat.  
*With the (EP)*  
*9 in the Line-up* The coach may go with a (9) player batting order. If the team does not have any additional players and a player gets ejected in this situation – It is an out when that player comes up to bat.  
*8 in the Line-up* The coach may start with a (8) player batting order. The late arriving player may be added to the bottom of the lineup at that time. If the team still has only (8) players and no additional players at the time of the ejected player – Then while the team has only 8 players and no subs – it is then a forfeit.
7. **Inclement weather:** Umpires will stop the game for 30 minutes if Thunder or Lightning takes place. Any game stopped after 6:45 p.m. will not be restarted. Game will be rescheduled from the beginning unless it is an official game. 5 innings or 4½ innings if home team is winning
8. **Re-entry Rule:** Starters may re-enter the game as long as **he returns in the same spot in the batting order.** (i.e): Starter is batting 3<sup>rd</sup> in the starting line-up and a substitute player comes in for him in 2<sup>nd</sup> Inning. The starter may only re-enter in that 3<sup>RD</sup> spot in the lineup.  
*If not using the continuous order*
9. **Emergency re-enter:** **Any player** may re-enter if a player from the team has to leave due to an injury or family emergency. If they had a continuous batting order or no other player is available – then – it is **not an out** when the batter would have been up to bat.
10. **Bats:** Participants are permitted to **use only -3 BBCOR or wooden bats.**
11. **Distances:** Bases are 90 feet. Pitching rubber is 60.6 feet.
12. **NO Metal Spikes:** Participants **are not allowed** to wear metal spikes. **Player changes shoes, No Penalty**
13. **Speed Up Rules:** **Intentional Walk:** No Pitches need to be thrown—Just tell Umpire “We are walking him”  
**Courtesy Runner for Catcher:** Mandatory with 2 outs, Optional with less than 2 outs  
**Home run over the fence:** Runner only has to touch 1B
14. **NO Head First Slides:** Head First sliding is not permitted. However on a pickoff move, the player is allowed to dive back. **On a head first slide - Runner is out, other runners return to their original base. If the batter hits the ball, he returns to bat again with that count.**
15. **Extra Inning Rule:** The visiting team starts with their runner who made the last out from the previous inning being put on 2B. The home team gets the same opportunity in their time at bat.  
(in Playoffs only)  
Special Note: It may be used during a regular season game if the time limit has not expired yet.

**Field supervisor will call in the game score immediately after the game to (216) 664-2118**

**SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR THIS SEASON  
THIS COULD CHANGE IF THE CDC GUIDELINES GET DROPPED  
AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATION NOTIFIES US.**

*(In addition to Responsible Restart Ohio)*

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Baseball-Softball.pdf>

Failure to comply with the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Health as well as the guidelines below may result in the removal and possible expulsion of the person and/or team.

**Everyone (Players, Managers, Spectators, Scorekeepers, & Umpires):**

- ☐ All participants, spectators, and employees must adhere to six-foot physical distancing while at the field
- ☐ Report any COVID-19 exposures to the league commissioner
- ☐ Conduct daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation) before arriving to the field.  
Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home
- ☐ It is strongly recommended that everyone (players, managers, spectators, Scorekeepers & umpires) wear face coverings while not on the field of play
- ☐ No one may congregate in the parking lot or anywhere else near the fields before, During or after the game
- ☐ No spitting (including but not limited to seeds, gum or similar products)
- ☐ Travel to the venue with no one other than those who live in your household
- ☐ Wash and disinfect hands often

**Managers:**

- ☐ Report any team exposure to COVID-19 to the league commissioner
- ☐ It is recommended that there is no shared equipment, however the manager will be Responsible for disinfecting any shared equipment between uses
- ☐ Must ensure that all players and spectators are adhering to the six-foot physical distancing restrictions and any other restriction on the list
- ☐ Must ensure that the post-game handshakes are eliminated and any other touching between players (high-fives)
- ☐ Do not allow any team or communal drinking stations
- ☐ Ensure physical distancing between yourself/your team with the scorekeeper after Turning in lineup and game fees
- ☐ Each team will have their own designated balls. You will not be permitted to use the 2 Other team's balls.

**Players:**

- ☐ Physical distancing must be maintained
- ☐ Dugouts will be closed to all players, EXCEPT the on deck batter. Players will use the bleachers or bring their own seat. Dugouts will only be used to enter and exit the field. You may not stand behind the backstop and should limit seating to behind what would be your dugout
- ☐ If sharing equipment, disinfect after each use as noted in the managers section above
- ☐ No touch rule

**Spectators:**

- ☐ Must adhere to the six-foot physical distancing restrictions
- ☐ Will not be permitted to use the bleachers; all spectators must bring their own seat
- ☐ May not congregate before or after the game
- ☐ May not enter the field of play and maintain the six-foot physical distancing behind the backstop